

# Trumbull Economic and Community Development Update



As fall winds down and the holidays are upon us, we are celebrating significant progress filling and repositioning our underperforming and vacant properties throughout Trumbull. We have over 400,000 SF of long vacant property being reoccupied and/or being redeveloped, with more good news to come!

The formerly vacant 60 Commerce Drive in the Trumbull Corporate Park will be the home of the new Connecticut headquarters for Make-a-Wish Foundation. They will be creating a very special environment for the children and families they serve.

7 Cambridge Drive, once vacant, is being reoccupied with DaVita Dialysis and Cooperative Educational Services' new early diagnostic center.

Despite legal challenges, the 250,000 SF, long-vacant 48 Monroe Turnpike property is proposed to become a continuum of housing, services and amenities for residents 55+.

The formerly vacant 40,000 SF obsolete office building at 101/109 Oakview Drive has been demolished and a new independent living facility for 55+, River Valley Resort Community, is under construction.

Cooper Surgical took up additional space in a portion of 55 Corporate Drive that was vacant. DBAT filled 24,000 SF of vacant space at 35 Nutmeg Drive in the Trumbull Corporate Park, and ESCAPOLOGY opened in the vacant, first floor space at 9 Trefoil Drive this December.

These are just a sampling of exciting new businesses and projects in formerly underperforming and vacant space that are bringing jobs and new tax revenue to Trumbull in the future.

We hope to be able to share details of several exciting business locations soon, including the former 110,000 SF Read's Warehouse building on Route 25. The building is under contract to be purchased. The project will bring significant jobs and new tax revenue to a languishing property.

We thank you for your continued commitment to Trumbull. By working together, we continue to make Trumbull a community of choice and the place to be.

Vicki A. Tesoro First Selectman Ralph Sather Chair, ECDC Commission Rina Bakalar Director, ECD

## Annual Business Appreciation Breakfast...



We had a standing-room-only crowd on October 25 for the Annual Business Appreciation Breakfast. Commissioner David Lehman of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and Peter Denious, President and CEO of the Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC), were keynote panel speakers.





We awarded Henkel Corporation the 2019 Corporate Success Award for their exemplary work supporting the community and for their investment and expansion in Trumbull. Michael and Mark Cerreta received the 2019 Small Business Success Award for their investments in Long Hill Green. Their developments have brought small businesses, jobs, new tax revenues and amenities to Trumbull.

We also recognized our High School, College and Graduate School interns. We have tremendous talent in the pipeline in Connecticut.

# Groundbreaking...





A groundbreaking celebration and presentation was held on September 19 for the River Valley Resort Community under construction on Oakview Drive. Resort Lifestyle Communities, the owner/developer of the project, invited approximately 50 business representatives and officials to Bianco Rosso Restaurant in Trumbull Center to learn about the project and the opportunities for collaboration with the community.

## Ribbon Cutting...





We welcomed Escapology to
Trumbull on December 11. This new
escape room and party facility is part
of the growing trend of experience
and recreation businesses. The
Trumbull location is the first
franchise in Connecticut.
Businessperson and owner Howard
Greenspan was on hand with First
Selectman Vicki Tesoro, elected
officials, business representatives,
friends and family for a wonderful
ribbon cutting and grand opening.

Not only is this fun for the family, the business offers an excellent teambuilding experience for businesses and their teams. For more information on Escapology, contact Noelle Wells at Noellew@scsdirectinc.com.

Route 111 Traffic Light and Trail Crossing...



A second community meeting was held on October 29 to discuss the design and improvements to the Route 111 Trail Crossing. The crossing will be redirected to a light, which will be installed at the entrance to the commercial plaza at 57 Monroe Turnpike. Other improvements to the trail crossing at Spring Hill Road and the entrance to Woodland Hills Condominium complex are also planned. The \$1,500,000 project is grant-funded and expected to go to construction in fall 2020 to summer 2021. Interim safety improvements are being made to the existing crossing in the short term in order to improve safety while the larger project is being implemented. For more information, please contact Rina Bakalar at <a href="mailto:rbakalar@trumbull-ct.gov">rbakalar@trumbull-ct.gov</a> or William Maurer at <a href="mailto:wmaurer@trumbull-ct.gov">wmaurer@trumbull-ct.gov</a>.

# Former Marisa's, 6540 Main Street Update...



The redevelopment of the former Marisa's Restaurant site at 6540 Main Street is well underway. The majority of the former structure has been demolished. The 16,000+ SF commercial center will house a new restaurant, ECCO, by the owners of Molto in Fairfield. The Dunkin Donuts will remain with a drive-thru, and other businesses are being pursued to fill up the center. For



more information on the project, contact Mike Cerreta at 203-268-2225 or mike@cerretabuilders.com.

## Stern Village Grants and Improvements...

In September, Trumbull was awarded a third Small Cities Grant to make additional improvements to Stern Village housing complex. In April of 2019, the Town applied for funding on behalf of the Trumbull Housing Authority to make improvements to the 36-unit congregate building comprised of apartment-style units.

The \$1,072,234 award came through the Connecticut Department of Housing, which is the administrator of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant funds. Specific renovation improvements include heating and ventilation improvements to increase energy efficiency, a new highly efficient boiler, new individual unit temperature controls, a new hallway fresh air ventilation system, new energy efficient heat pump systems to provide heating and air conditioning to all building spaces, and bathroom accessibility improvements.

The components funded by this new award are part of an ongoing renovation plan for the entire Stern Village property. Two previous Small Cities grants were awarded in 2016 and 2018. Those grants provided for new heat pumps in all of the village-style units and new windows for all units. To date, the Town has secured \$2,672,000 to assist Stern Village in its revitalization.

Trumbull's First Restaurant Week...



We want to thank all of our 20+
participating restaurants, patrons,
sponsors (Newtown Savings Bank,
Westfield Trumbull, Trumbull
Chamber of Commerce, Trumbull
Economic and Community
Development Commission) and
volunteers for helping to make
Trumbull Restaurant Week a success.
We will be back in September 2020
and we hope to make the event even
better!

#### Children's Business Fair...



Trumbull resident Malvika Kumar coordinated the first Trumbull Children's Business Fair on October 12. Thirty-five young entrepreneurs developed business plans and put them to action selling and promoting their products and services to the public. This inspiring event supports the development of our talent pool. We hope to grow the event each year.

# **Happy Holidays!**

Thank you for your commitment to Trumbull and your partnership throughout the year!





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